

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 05317 071423Z

50 45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

DHA-02 /060 W

----- 027957

R 071316Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3323

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: REGGAE STAR SHOT; MOTIVE PROBABLY POLITICAL

1. VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA GAINED FRESH PROMINENCE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 WHEN BOB MARLEY, POPULAR JAMAICAN REGGAE STAR, WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED. THE INCIDENT, IN WHICH THREE ASSOCIATES OF MARLEY'S WERE ALSO WOUNDED, OCCURRED AT THE POP STAR'S HOME NEAR THE COMPOUND WHICH HOUSES THE RESIDENCES OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE PRIME MINISTER. THE ASSAILANTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED, BUT CLEARLY HIT MARLEY AND HIS ASSOCIATES IN A PRE-MEDITATED ATTACK.

2. THE MARLEY SHOOTING HAS CAPTURED EVEN MORE ATTENTION THAN THE EGGAE ARTIST'S POPULARITY MIGHT SUGGEST WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE. IMMEDIATELY BEFOE THE SHOOTING, MARLEY AND MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP HAD BEEN REHEARSING FOR A FREE, PUBLIC CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR A PARK IN DOWNTOWN KINGSTON ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5. THE CONCERT, SPONSORED BY THE CULTURAL SECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WAS HELD DESPITE THE INCIDENT, WITH MARLEY PARTICIPATING -- THOUGH FIVE HOURS LATE.

3. THE CONCERT WAS PART OF PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 05317 071423Z

(PNP) ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND WAS SCHEDULED TO COIN-

CIDE WITH THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY'S (JLP) RELEASE OF ITS LONG-AWAITED MANIFESTO -- TO THE DETRIMENT OF NEWS TIME AND PUBLIC ATTENTION FOR THE LATTER.

4. RUMORS ABOUND AS TO THE MOTIVATION FOR THE SHOOTING. SOME SEE THE INCIDENT AS AN ATTEMPT BY JLP GUNMEN TO HALT THE CONCERT WHICH WOULD FEATURE THE "POLITICALLY PROGRESSIVE" MUSIC OF MARLEY AND OTHER REGGAE STARS. OTHERS SEE IT AS A DEEP-LAID PLOT TO CREATE A PROGRESSIVE, YOUTHFUL JAMAICAN MARTYR -- TO THE BENEFIT OF THE PNP. THOSE HOLDING THE LATTER VIEW NOTE THAT OF THE FOUR PERSONS SHOT, THREE OF THEM -- INCLUDING MARLEY -- SUFFERED ONLY MINOR WOUNDS. TOO, THE ASSAILANTS MAY SIMPLY BE ENEMIES OF MARLEY OR ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES. WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THE INCIDENT WILL E WITH US FOR SOME TIME, GIVEN MARLEY'S POPULARITY. CONTRIBUTING TO THIS VIEW IS THE FACT THAT, WHILE THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN THE SHOOTING PROMINENT COVERAGE, THE REPORTING HAS BEEN CURIOUSLY UNINFORMATIVE.

GERARD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUSIC, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINGST05317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760451-1141
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761267/aaaacfqqa.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGGAE STAR SHOT; MOTIVE PROBABLY POLITICAL
TAGS: PINT, JM, (MARLEY, BOB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006